

in my area and several other areas are going to have to try to negotiate with the Department of Roads. Now Senator Murphy refers to that 800 lb. gorilla who sleeps where he wants to. Well this is going to be the same kind of a situation because the counties do not have bargaining capacity equivalent to that of the Department of Roads. Now I will give it to you very simply and I will tell you why I am opposed to it. If there is some way that we can amend this bill to provide that the Department of Roads cannot refuse to improve a road unless the county accepts in return some of the graveled roads, then I would be willing to buy it but there isn't any way in the world that we can, as a county, negotiate with the Department of Roads about an improvement perhaps on Highway 15 unless we accept to the idea of returning Highway 66. They say, well, you know, it is not going to happen, Mr. Doyle said, I would never do that. Mr. Doyle is gone. Mr. Doyle is working for Lyman-Richey. Mr. Doyle is now working for the outfit he used to buy a lot of gravel from, but the point I want to make is this. There isn't any way in the world that the county bargaining authority can equal that of the state. Secondly, if you want to do this and you can go ahead and do it, but I want it understood and I want it to be a matter of record that it is going to increase the load on the counties and the only place it is going to help, where the money is going to come from, is from property tax. You are going to get \$500. You may get \$1000. You may, in rare instances, negotiate for additional money. I do not doubt Senator Kremer's sincerity but I do doubt the ability of the counties to negotiate this on an equal basis. And so when that happens, the money to fix up those roads is going to come from property taxes. Now if you want to do that, that is fine with me. But let's not operate under the illusion that we are going to be reimbursed from the generous capacity of the state for these counties. Now someone says the County Officials, whoever the devil that is, support the bill. I will tell you why. If you can read, you can tell why. 35 counties at the present time have a total of 426 miles of graveled road in them. That leaves 58 counties that do not have any graveled roads. Let's take a vote. You know how it comes out. 58 to 35 in favor of dumping the roads back on the counties. Fine with me if I had no roads in my district. It would make a lot of sense. It doesn't make much sense to those people who have a lot of graveled roads in their district. And so I just want to say this. You can amend this bill if you want to. You have no assurance the Governor will sign it. You have no assurance the Department of Roads will honor that agreement. You have no assurance a succeeding legislature will not change it, and when that happens, you are going to have to go back to your county and say, well, we are sorry. We made a bad deal. I would like to have a better arrangement. I would like to look at it further to see if it could be done but at the present time I don't see how you can wash this baby up and clean it up. I think you just need to throw it out.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I was listening to Senator Schmit's remarks and, Senator Schmit, if you would listen to me just a little bit here. I am concerned about this particular piece of legislation